

monitoring reading technique to obtain read technique data;
sending the item identification data and the read technique data to
an evaluation system;

obtaining optimum read technique data;

comparing the read technique data to the optimum read
technique data to determine an effectiveness of the reading
technique;

providing feedback indicating the effectiveness of the reading
technique.

Contd
A1
14. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the step
of obtaining optimum read technique data comprises accessing a
lookup table containing predetermined optimum read technique data
for an item corresponding to the symbol data.

A2
17. (Amended) A method according to claim 16 further
comprising the steps of scanning a plurality of items and
calculating an average dynamic weight of the plurality of items.

A3
18. (Amended) A method according to claim 17 further
comprising the step of comparing the average dynamic weight of the
plurality of items to a predetermined average dynamic weight
standard.

[Please add the following claims:

37. (New) A method of optical scanning wherein an operator passes an item through a scan volume of a scanner while moving the item across a weigh scale integrated with the scanner, comprising the steps of

scanning an optical symbol on the item to obtain symbol data;

obtaining a dynamic weight of the item as the item is moved across the weigh scale;

calculating an average dynamic weight of a plurality of items scanned;

comparing the average dynamic weight of the plurality of items scanned to an average dynamic weight standard;

providing data regarding an extent of lifting to at least one of a training system and a monitoring system.

38. (New) A method according to Claim 37 further comprising the step of monitoring scanning technique with the scanner to obtain scan technique data.

39. (New) A method of optical scanning wherein an operator passes an item through the scan volume of a scanner while moving the item across a weigh scale integrated with the scanner, comprising the steps of

scanning an optical symbol on the item to obtain symbol data;
obtaining a dynamic weight of the item as the item is moved
across the weigh scale;

comparing the dynamic weight value to a threshold value to
make a decision whether the item was slid across the scanner or
lifted across the scanner;

accumulating total quantities of items slid and items lifted
for a plurality of items scanned;

providing data regarding the relative amounts of lifting and
of sliding to at least one of a training system and a monitoring
system.

40. (New) A method according to Claim 39 further comprising
the step of monitoring scanning technique with the scanner to
obtain scan technique data.